

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

RICHARD BECK, )  
 )  
Petitioner, )  
v. ) No. 2:11-cv-302-WTL-DKL  
 )  
MR. BROWN, )  
Respondent. )

**Entry Discussing Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus**

A federal court may issue a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a) only if it finds the applicant is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.<sup>1</sup> *Id.* Because habeas petitioner Richard Beck has failed to show that this is the case with respect to the disciplinary proceeding challenged in this case, his petition for a writ of habeas corpus must be **denied** and this action dismissed.

**Discussion**

In a disciplinary proceeding identified as No. as ISP 07-12-0218, Beck was found guilty of violating rules at an Indiana prison through his use of an unauthorized substance, *i.e.*, cannabinoids. The evidence favorable to the decision of the hearing officer is that Beck's urine specimen given to prison officers on November 27, 2007, tested positive for the presence of cannabinoids (marijuana). Contending that the proceeding was constitutionally infirm, Beck seeks a writ of habeas corpus.

Indiana state prisoners have a liberty interest in their good-time credits and therefore are entitled to due process before the state may revoke them. *Wolff v. McDonnell*, 418 U.S. 539, 557 (1974); *Cochran v. Buss*, 381 F.3d 637, 639 (7th Cir. 2004). The right to due process in this setting is important and is well-defined. Due process requires the issuance of advance written notice of the charges, a limited opportunity to present evidence to an impartial decision-maker, a written statement articulating the reasons for the disciplinary action and the evidence justifying it, and

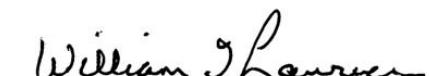
Asome evidence in the record@ to support the finding of guilt. *See Superintend., Mass. Corr. Inst. v. Hill*, 472 U.S. 445, 454 (1985); *Wolff v. McDonnell*, 418 U.S. 539, 564, 566, 570-71 (1974); *Piggie v. Cotton*, 344 F.3d 674, 677 (7th Cir. 2003); *Webb v. Anderson*, 224 F.3d 649, 652 (7th Cir. 2000).

Using the protections recognized in *Wolff* and *Hill* as an analytical template, Beck received all the process to which he was entitled. That is, the charge was clear, adequate notice was given, and the evidence was sufficient. In addition, (1) Beck was given the opportunity to appear before the conduct board and make a statement concerning the charge, (2) the conduct board issued a sufficient statement of its findings, and (3) the conduct board issued a written reason for the decision and for the sanctions which were imposed. Additionally, there is no merit to Beck's motion to examine signature or to his motion to present newly discovered evidence, each of which [19] and [23] are denied.

Beck's claims that he was denied the protections afforded by *Wolff* are either refuted by the expanded record and based on an assertions which do not entitle him to relief. "The touchstone of due process is protection of the individual against arbitrary action of the government." *Wolff*, 418 U.S. at 558. There was no arbitrary action in any aspect of the charge, disciplinary proceeding, or sanctions involved in the events identified in this action, and there was no constitutional infirmity in the proceeding which entitles Beck to the relief he seeks. Accordingly, his petition for a writ of habeas corpus must be **denied** and the action dismissed. Judgment consistent with this Entry shall now issue.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Date: 05/09/2012



Hon. William T. Lawrence, Judge  
United States District Court  
Southern District of Indiana

**Distribution:**

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